

Name:
U.S. History

Date:

7th Grade

Life In The Colonies – The Diary Of Mary Cooper

The diary of Mary Cooper gives us insight into many aspects of 18th-Century early American life: life on a farm in the middle colonies, life for a woman and housewife in colonial times, and life on Long Island in the 1700s. Please read the selections from Mary Cooper's diary and answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Is a diary a *primary source* or a *secondary source*? Why?

2. Describe four jobs that Mary Cooper did on the farm as part of her daily work.

3. Why do you think Cooper frequently describes her visits to the Quaker meetinghouse?

4. How does Cooper feel about her job providing room and meals for travelers? What details in the diary tell you this?

5. Did Cooper live alone on her farm, or did other people live with her? Explain.

6. What is Cooper's attitude toward religion? Explain.

7. How would you describe the writing style and spelling of most of Cooper's passages? Why do you think she wrote in this way?

8. Some of the passages seem more poetic than others. Why do you think certain passages are more descriptive?

9. In your opinion, did Mary Cooper live a happy life? Explain.

10. Thinking Question: Why do you think Cooper might have decided to write a diary?